

WANDERERS KEEP THE FIREWORKS UNTIL THE LAST!

By 'NOVA'

Wycombe 3, Pegasus 0

TWO goals in the last three minutes clinched Wycombe Wanderers' victory over Pegasus in the semi-final of the Smith Memorial Cup competition at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Up to those last few thrilling minutes Wycombe had only a one-goal advantage over a strong, if not exceptionally skilful Pegasus side.

But although they scored only one goal in the first 87 minutes, Wycombe were always on top, with goalkeeper Ken Brown having a relatively easy afternoon.

Paul Bates, making a fine come-back, played his usual deep-lying game, spraying passes to all parts of the field with astonishing accuracy.

It was from one of these, in the 20th minute, that Peter James scored his fifteenth goal of the season.

James, who has now scored six times in the last four games, put over some excellent centres but his usually powerful shooting was rather subdued.

Tony Horseman played his first game on Wycombe's left wing when the Wanderers' officials decided not to risk Len Worley.

Horseman had a fine game and worked up a good understanding with Bates. Although he was against an experienced full-back in Turnbull, he used his speed to great advantage and again posed the question: Can the Wanderers afford to leave him out of their Amateur Cup team?

Blair proved a constant menace to the big Pegasus defenders. Apart from being a clever ball

player, Blair is not afraid to shoot.

But centre-forward Jimmy Hay was disappointing. He was given little opportunity by the strong Pegasus pivot, Dougall, either in the air or on the ground.

The Wanderers made a change in defence just before the kick-off, when it was known that Dave Worley, standing in for international John Fisher, would be unable to play because of his injured knee.

Alistair Lewis was moved from left-back to centre-half and John Beck switched his full-back position to let in 18-years-old John Birch for his first senior game. Lewis played a quietly safe game, well shielded by Dave Thomas and Charlie Gale, who got through a tremendous amount of work.

Beck gave his usual efficient display, making some brilliant interceptions, and John Birch, after a nervous opening, settled down to some strong tackling, although his kicking was not up to the same standard.

NEAR MISSES

Wycombe were well worth their goal advantage at half-time for, while Pegasus put in only a few long-range shots, the home men went close on several occasions. Bates shot over the bar from about 20 yards, Hay had a header well saved, and a few minutes later shot just wide.

Wycombe pressed strongly when the second half opened and Horseman had a fine run halted when goalkeeper Jarvis saved at his feet.

Pegasus counter-attacked and Brown made the save of the match when he dived full length to palm away a shot from no more than five yards.

This was the last serious onslaught on the Wycombe goal, for Thomas, Gale and Beck took control in the Wanderers' half.

In the last few minutes, when it looked as if James's goal was going to be the only score, first Blair and then Bates underlined their team's superiority with two good goals. A Hay header was hooked by Blair into the net and a minute later Bates put in a beautifully-placed shot after a neat wing movement.

The Pegasus three inside-forwards, Flann, Jackson and Wood were always bustling with energy but with little success against the keen tackling of the home defence.

Perhaps this Pegasus team were not up to the same standard of a few years back, but they were a strong no-nonsense team against whom victory will be always hard-earned.